



Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization

Your way of taking an active part in the future
of your region's transportation framework

Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization

FRONTIER MPO Performance & Expenditure Report

FISCAL YEAR 2020 (JUL 1, 2019 – JUN 30, 2020)

Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization

Performance & Expenditure Report

Fiscal Year 2020 (Jul 1, 2019– Jun 30, 2020)

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Overview

The purpose of the Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is to implement the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, as amended, which set out the national policy in which the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designated for each urbanized area to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive multimodal transportation planning process. This process included the development of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The plan and program encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operation, and development of a surface transportation system that will service the mobility needs of people and freight, including accessible pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, and foster economic growth and development, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution.

FRONTIER MPO MISSION STATEMENT

To dynamically plan,
responsibly prioritize,
and intentionally fund
diverse transportation
choices.

Transportation projects in the Fort Smith region that receive State and Federal funding are identified and shown in the 2040: The New Frontier Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), long-range plan (20-year plan horizon) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP-4-year Capital Improvement Program). Selected projects typically include improvements located on state highways, fixed route transit/bus service, para-transit/bus service, highway safety and maintenance projects, and local projects that include roads, rail, transit, bicycle, and sidewalk projects. The MTP is scheduled for an update by late 2021.

Who is Frontier MPO?

The Frontier MPO is the group of elected and appointed officials responsible for making transportation planning decisions in the MPO study area. The study area is the Fort Smith Urbanized Area (UZA) and those contiguous areas anticipated to become urbanized within the 20-year planning horizon. In 2011, Frontier MPO was designated as the MPO by the Governors of the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma, in agreement with local governments.

The Western Arkansas Planning and Development District (WAPDD) is the designated fiscal and administrative agent for the Frontier MPO. United States Department of Transportation planning funds (PL) are provided on a reimbursement basis by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) by means of an annual agreement set forth in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).

MAP-21 & FAST Act Compliance

The MPO's metropolitan transportation planning process is required to comply with the current surface and transportation authorizing legislation, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). The central highway project funding categories are the following:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STGBP),
- Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) - Fort Smith **is NOT** an air quality non-attainment area,
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP),
- National Highway Performance Program (NHPP),

- Metropolitan Planning Railway-Highway Crossings (set-aside HSIP)
- National Highway Freight Program

FHWA Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds allocated within the UPWP are a portion of the national set-aside of 1.25% of the funds authorized to be appropriated in all of the categories listed above. PL funds are allocated by formula to states, where other formulas result in allocations to the MPO. Periodic certification that the transportation planning process is being carried out in conformance with federal and state requirements is necessary for the continued receipt of these funds.

(a) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following factors:

- (1)** Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- (2)** Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (3)** Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (4)** Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
- (5)** Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- (6)** Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- (7)** Promote efficient system management and operation;
- (8)** Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
- (9)** Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
- (10)** Enhance travel and tourism

(b) Consideration of the planning factors in paragraph (a) of this section shall be reflected, as appropriate, in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The degree of consideration and analysis of the factors should be based on the scale and complexity of many issues, including transportation system development, land use, employment, economic development, human and natural environment, and housing and community development.

(c) The failure to consider any factor specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall not be reviewable by any court under title 23 U.S.C., 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, subchapter II of title 5, U.S.C. Chapter 5, or title 5 U.S.C. Chapter 7 in any matter affecting a metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, a project or strategy, or the certification of a metropolitan transportation planning process.

(d) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall be carried out in coordination with the statewide transportation planning process required by 23 U.S.C. 135 and 49 U.S.C. 5304.

(e) In carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process, MPOs, States, and public transportation operators may apply asset management principles and techniques in establishing planning goals, defining TIP priorities, and assessing transportation investment decisions, including

transportation system safety, operations, preservation, and maintenance, as well as strategies and policies to support homeland security and to safeguard the personal security of all motorized and non-motorized users.

(f) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall (to the maximum extent practicable) be consistent with the development of applicable regional intelligent transportation systems (ITS) architectures, as defined in 23 CFR parts 940.

(g) Preparation of the coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan, as required by 49 U.S.C. 5310, 5316, and 5317, should be coordinated and consistent with the metropolitan transportation planning process.

(h) The metropolitan transportation planning process should be consistent with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (STIP), as specified in 23 U.S.C. 148, and other transit safety and security planning and review processes, plans, and programs, as appropriate.

(i) The FHWA and the FTA shall designate as a transportation management area (TMA) each urbanized area with a population of over 200,000 individuals, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The FHWA and the FTA shall also designate any additional urbanized area as a TMA on the request of the Governor and the MPO designated for that area.

(j) In an urbanized area not designated as a TMA that is an air quality attainment area, the MPO(s) may propose and submit to the FHWA and the FTA for approval a procedure for developing an abbreviated metropolitan transportation plan and TIP. In developing proposed simplified planning procedures, consideration shall be given to whether the abbreviated metropolitan transportation plan and TIP will achieve the purposes of 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5303, and these regulations, taking into account the complexity of the transportation problems in the area. The simplified procedures shall be developed by the MPO in cooperation with the State(s) and public transportation operator(s).

Freedom of Information Act

In order to ensure adequate public notice and provision of timely information, all meetings of the Frontier MPO Policy Board, Technical Committee, subcommittees and focus groups are subject to the provisions of the Arkansas Code Annotated, 25-19-101 and the Oklahoma Annotated Statutes, 25-301-314.

Environmental Justice

Pursuant to Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to address Environmental Justice in minority and low-income populations, dated February 11, 1994, and the subsequent U.S. Department of Transportation Order 5680.3, issued April 15, 1997, the Frontier MPO promotes Environmental Justice in all aspects of the Frontier transportation planning process. These procedures augment and reaffirm the Frontier MPO policy to adhere to advance the principles of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA) as amended, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) as amended, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), as amended, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), as amended, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) and other statutes, regulations and guidance that address or affect infrastructure planning and decision making; social, economic, or environmental matters; public health; and public involvement.

Notices of meetings and public hearings will be specifically provided in minority and ethnic gathering places to promote participation in the transportation planning process. Minority and ethnic communities will be monitored through Census data to guarantee their inclusion in the process as populations fluctuate over time. Special accommodations (e.g., interpreter, sign language interpreter, large print copy, etc.) may be requested of the Frontier MPO staff during normal business hours at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Frontier MPO staff will attempt to accommodate all such requests.

Planning & Programming

Transportation planning involves evaluating existing conditions in the planning area, forecasting future conditions, identifying future problems and needs, developing capital movement alternatives, evaluating their potential impacts, and developing a financial plan. Planning consideration must include the eight planning factors specified in legislation. These planning factors originate in statute and are repeated in the regulations:

- 1) support the **economic vitality** of the [United States, the States, nonmetropolitan areas, and] metropolitan areas, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- 2) increase the **safety** of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
- 3) increase the **security** of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
- 4) increase the **accessibility** and mobility of people and for freight;
- 5) protect and enhance the **environment**, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- 6) enhance the **integration** and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes [throughout the State], for people and freight;
- 7) promote efficient system **management and operation**;
- 8) emphasize the **preservation** of the existing transportation system;
- 9) Improve the **resiliency** and **reliability** of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
- 10) Enhance **travel** and **tourism**

PLANNING FACTORS

- Support Economic Vitality
- Increase Safety
- Increase Security
- Increase Accessibility & Mobility
- Protect & Enhance the Environment
- Enhance Integration & Connectivity
- Promote Efficient System Management & Operations
- Emphasize Preservation
- Improve System Resiliency & Reliability
- Enhance Travel & Tourism

Highways

FHWA, DOT | PART 450 – Planning Assistance & Standards

Subpart C -- Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming

[450.300](#) Purpose.

[450.302](#) Applicability.

[450.304](#) Definitions.

[450.306](#) Metropolitan planning organization: Designations and redesignation.

[450.308](#) Metropolitan planning organization: Metropolitan planning area boundaries.

[450.310](#) Metropolitan planning organization: Agreements.

[450.312](#) Metropolitan transportation planning: Responsibilities, cooperation, and coordination.

[450.314](#) Metropolitan transportation planning process: Unified planning work programs.

[450.316](#) Metropolitan transportation planning process: Elements.

[450.318](#) Metropolitan transportation planning process: Major metropolitan transportation investments.

[450.320](#) Metropolitan transportation planning process: Relation to management systems.

[450.322](#) Metropolitan transportation planning process: Transportation plan.

[450.324](#) Transportation improvement program: General.

[450.326](#) Transportation improvement program: Modification.

[450.328](#) Transportation improvement program: Relationship to statewide TIP.

[450.330](#) Transportation improvement program: Action required by FHWA/FTA.

[450.332](#) Project selection for implementation.

[450.334](#) Metropolitan transportation planning process: Certification.

[450.336](#) Phase-in of new requirements.

Performance & Expenditure Report Requirements

Performance and Expenditure Report for FY2020 are due within 60 calendar days of the end of the fiscal year (Frontier MPO deadline: August 31, 2020). At minimum, this report should contain the following:

- Comparison of actual performance with established goals;
- Progress in meeting schedules;
- Status of expenditures in a format compatible with the work program, including a comparison of budgeted (approved) amounts and actual costs incurred;
- Cost overruns or underruns;
- Approved work program revisions; and
- Other pertinent supporting data

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK PROJECTS

Major Planning Work Products

The following work projects can be found on the Frontier MPO website under Resources or under Plans & Projects (www.frontiermpo.org).

1) Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP)

§ 450.332 Annual listing of obligated projects.

(a) In metropolitan planning areas, on an annual basis, no later than 90 calendar days following the end of the program year, the State, public transportation operator(s), and the MPO shall cooperatively develop a listing of projects (including investments in pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities) for which funds under 23 U.S.C. or 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 were obligated in the preceding program year.

(b) The listing shall be prepared in accordance with §450.314(a) and shall include all federally funded projects authorized or revised to increase obligations in the preceding program year, and shall at a minimum include the TIP information under §450.324(e) (1) and (4) and identify, for each project, the amount of Federal funds requested in the TIP, the Federal funding that was obligated during the preceding year, and the Federal funding remaining and available for subsequent years.

(c) The listing shall be published or otherwise made available in accordance with the MPO's public participation criteria for the TIP. Frontier MPO staff coordinated with ODOT and ARDOT to prepare and publish the FFY2016 ALOP [Oct 1, 2016-Sept 30, 2017] by the close-of-business Dec 31, 2017.

2) Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Transportation Planning (MOU)

The MPO members adopted the MOU for the purpose of carrying out continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning, mutually agreeing to the roles and responsibilities of these partnerships. The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are to: (1) formalize the current cooperative efforts between Frontier, member jurisdictions, Fort Smith Transit, ARDOT and ODOT for the production and execution of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the ongoing transportation planning process in general, as well as (2) comply with the requirements of the current Federal Transportation Bill, all successors of the Act and subsequent regulations, and all of the applicable laws and regulations. No updates or modifications since Feb 27, 2012.

3) Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Currently, the 2040: The New Frontier MTP is being updated. However, the existing 2040: The New Frontier MTP is the regional transportation plan for the Fort Smith Region encompasses municipalities and unincorporated portions of counties in Arkansas and Oklahoma. It is a plan that identifies the needs and financial resources available to meet the areas transportation needs over a 25-year horizon. Long range transportation planning requires the planning process to be a cooperative, continuing and comprehensive process that monitors regional growth and any subsequent socio-economic changes resulting from growth. Public participation meetings were held in February, 2016. Public meetings for the draft MTP were held in June, 2016. The MPO staff worked with the Arkansas Department of Transportation to determine the process for ranking projects for inclusion in the plan. Staff completed maps, tables, charts and text for the plan. 2040:

The New Frontier MTP was completed in September, 2016. At this time, an updated MTP is being prepared and developed.

4) Public Participation Plan (PPP)

The PPP is intended to be a point of information, provide the specifics for public outreach efforts and help direct organization coordination that will provide opportunities for the review and input on transportation activities and programs. The PPP has been developed to assure that the transportation planning process conducted by the Frontier MPO complies with Federal requirements for public participation and involvement. Involvement procedures will provide opportunities for citizens to contribute ideas and opinions early and at every stage of the planning process. Efforts will be made to assure participation in the transportation planning and programming process by traditionally underserved individuals, including elderly, low income and minority individuals, person with disabilities, and person with Limited English proficiency (LEP). In addition to legal notice and interested parties and media notice; flyers are posted at the following locations:

- Administrative offices of each local member jurisdiction
- Department of Human Services
- Adult Education Bulletin Board
- Regional Library
- Frontier MPO / WAPDD office
- Frontier MPO website

The Frontier MPO will, to the extent reasonable and practical, ensure that the PPP will address the requirements for MPO public involvement as identified in 23 CFR 450.316 Metropolitan Planning Process: Elements. The PPP is reviewed on an annual basis and amended as needed. Given COVID-19, the Public Participation Plan was modified on August 19, 2020 to include virtual meetings during such pandemic events. Public comment was sought on this amendment.

5) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program is updated every four years and maintained annually. Frontier MPO staff works directly with the MPO member local governments and with the Arkansas Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to identify proposed projects for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program. After all proposed project requests are identified, Frontier MPO staff, in conjunction with the Technical Committee, prepares a draft Transportation Improvement Program for public review. Notices of public review and comment period for the TIP will be published and posted as stated in the MPO's Public Participation Plan. The 2016-2020 TIP was amended and approved on May 15, 2017. While the 2020-2023 TIP was anticipated, ArDOT's schedule changed and as a result, the 2019-2022 TIP remains in place.

6) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP is a description of the proposed activities of the Frontier MPO during Fiscal Year 2021 and a detailed description of Federal planning funds. Frontier is required each year to prepare a work program and budget to outline the activities and tasks to be completed by the MPO during that fiscal year. The work tasks described are on a continuous basis in order to plan for the orderly and efficient development of the transportation system while maintaining certification and

eligibility for Federal highway and transit funds. Due to COVID 19, the quarterly meeting was held electronically; as a result, the Fiscal Year 2021 UPWP was adopted by the Frontier MPO Policy Board on June 10, 2020.

Overview of Ongoing Major Transportation Planning Work Products for FY 2021:

- Staff will continue to monitor the performance and operation of the transportation system through traffic count information, bridge sufficiency rating information, crash rate data, level of service analysis, and other information related to safety, efficiency and capacity.
- Staff will continue to work with the Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority (WAIA, formerly known as RITA) on the landside improvements associated with the development of intermodal facilities that will include a slack water harbor and an inland intermodal logistics park.
- Staff will establish and use a performance-based approach to transportation decision making and development of transportation plans as defined under MAP-21 and the FAST Act.
- Coordinate and establish performance targets that address the Fast Act surface transportation performance measures with ARDOT, ODOT, and with public transportation providers.
- Staff will develop and identify work tasks associated with the planning emphasis areas.
- Staff will develop and identify work tasks associated with the MTP update.
- Staff will complete Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans for the City of Greenwood and the Town of Pocola.

FY2020 PERFORMANCE REPORT

PROJECT # 44.21.00 | PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

Task #1 - General Administration: Staff will prepare agendas for the Frontier Technical Committee and Policy Board meetings. Staff will respond to individual committee requests, and facilitate and/or administer any MPO subcommittees formed during the fiscal year. Staff will assist member jurisdictions with Transportation Alternatives (TA); Transportation Enhancement, Recreational Trails, and BUILD program funding announcements and applications. All general administration work elements follow PPP guidelines. FY2020 Technical Committee and Policy Board calendar schedule was approved and hardcopies of agenda packets were mailed, emailed and posted to the Frontier MPO website and social media page 10 days prior to the following meetings:

- Technical Committee: July 17, October 2, 2019; January 13, April 3, 2020
- Policy Board: July 13, September 20, 2019; January 16, June 10, 2020

Task #2 - Financial Management: The MPO planning staff, housed at Western Arkansas Planning and Development District (WAPDD), has managed the transportation planning process for over 30 years. Staff will prepare monthly progress reports, payment requests, and year-end reports to ArDOT and ODOT. Staff will maintain accounts, monitor the budget, and report to the MPO Policy Board. Completed monthly progress reports and claims, as well as APER FY 2019.

Task #3 - Program Documents: Staff will monitor and revise through the appropriate processes the required program documents as needed. These documents include: 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Public Participation Plan (PPP), FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and Memorandums of Understandings (MOU). Staff updated as needed.

Task #4 - Preparation and Maintenance of Records: The following activities include: meeting minutes, resolutions, agreements, rosters of membership of committees, ARDOT and ODOT claims [progress reports/payment requests], Annual Performance and Expenditures Report (APER) and audited financial statements. Staff submitted the Annual P&E Report and Year-End Financial Summary (September, 2019).

Task #5 - FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program Preparation (UPWP): Staff will prepare the FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program which identifies and details all of the transportation planning and programming activities to be undertaken within the Frontier MPO Study Area to include a performance-based approach to transportation decision making and establishing performance targets as defined under FAST Act. Staff works with the following participating agencies: WAPDD, ARDOT, ODOT, FHWA, FTA, and FST to produce the draft FY2021 UPWP.

Task #6 - Training and Conferences: Staff and MPO members will participate in various training, conferences and educational programs that are relevant to the development of MPO transportation work. Staff will also include training and research regarding performance measures that are being developed by the US DOT, States, and other MPO's. Training may include but not be limited to the following: American Planning Association Conference (APA), TRB Small to Mid-Sized Communities Planning Tools Conference, TRB Annual Conference, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Annual Conference, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training, National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) National Regional Transportation Conference and the Arkansas Transportation Planning Conference. Further, staff may elect to bring selected training opportunities to the region for our member jurisdictions.

Training Conferences & Seminars

FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide Workshop	July 10, 2019	Springdale, AR
Arkansas Bike Summit	August 2-3, 2019	Bentonville, AR
Leadership Crawford County Opening Retreat	August 16-17, 2020	Mountainburg, AR
ArDOT Planning Conference	Sept. 10-12, 2019	North Little Rock, AR
AMPO Annual Conference	October 20-25, 2019	Baltimore, MD
Safe Routes Conference	November 11-14, 2019	Tampa, FL
ArDOT TMC Tour	February 21, 2020	Little Rock, AR

Task #7 - Title II and Title VI Compliance: Staff will process complaint forms and review projects for Title VI compliance meeting federal and state reporting requirements. Staff will provide Title VI documentation as requested by ODOT and ARDOT. The *Nondiscrimination Policy* is included on all Frontier MPO documents. The FMPO website has a Spanish notice for any requests of meeting documents to be translated into Spanish.

Task #8 – Public Participation & Citizen Involvement: In accordance with applicable federal requirements and adopted public participation procedures, FRONTIER MPO provides the public with opportunities to participate in the metropolitan planning process by providing information through a variety of channels. FRONTIER MPO has developed the [Public Participation Plan \(PPP\)](#) to identify specific stakeholders and methods to gather and disseminate project-specific or plan-specific information. FRONTIER MPO must ensure that its programs, plans and policies are carried out in a manner that is not discriminatory, regardless of race, color, national origin, or sex (gender).

Project # 44.21.00 – Program Support and Administration

Local Match Funds (20%)	\$14,460
Federal Funds (80%)	<u>\$57,839</u>
Total PL Funds	\$72,299

END PRODUCTS

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATES

Title II and Title VI Reports	Annually
P & E Report	August 31, 2020
FY 2020 UPWP	May 15, 2019
Maintain Bylaws for Frontier MPO	Ongoing
Present Transportation Information to Community and Regional Organizations	Ongoing
Administrative Support and Duties	Ongoing

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Frontier MPO, ARDOT, ODOT, FHWA, FTD and WAPDD

PROJECT #44.22.00 | GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Task #10 - Demographics and Future Projections: Staff will continue to analyze population, household, and employment data and make growth projections for use in transportation decision making at the local and regional level.

Task #11 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Staff will continue to develop the Geographic Information System (GIS) and work on inputting transportation data into the system. This will include traffic count information, bridge sufficiency rating information, crash rate data, level of service, annual listing of obligated projects, and other information related to safety, efficiency and capacity.

Task #12 - Website Development and Maintenance for MPO Operations: Staff will maintain the Frontier MPO website and enhance the website content. This will include posting meeting notices, agendas, minutes, the Transportation Improvement Program, and Metropolitan Transportation Plan and

other documents on the website. MPO Staff worked closely with IT services to update the Frontier MPO website. The website will be revised as necessary.

Task #13 - Mapping and Graphics Support: Staff will continue to utilize visualization techniques to communicate transportation information to the MPO members and general public. Staff assisted with mapping for local jurisdictions transportation projects, and created graphics for the Regional Wayfinding Plan, Van Buren Pedestrian Bicycle Plan, and Alma Pedestrian Bicycle Plan.

Task #14 –Street Design Preliminary Review: Ensure that future street design (including intersections, sidewalks, and transit stops) reflect adjacent land uses and accommodate all modes of users. Review planned and programmed transportation projects, transportation and land use development, transportation strategies, and provide an evaluation process to encompass diverse viewpoints. Review transportation project plans proposed by State agencies for consistency with adopted Frontier MPO plans and programs, on an as-submitted basis, review 30, 60, and 90% plan sets and/or proposals of other public agencies or private developers for impacts on the transportation system.

Project #44.22.00 – General Development and Comprehensive Planning

Local Match Funds (20%)	\$16,131
Federal Funds (80%)	<u>\$64,530</u>
Total Funds	\$80,661

END PRODUCTS

GIS Database
Website Maintenance & Update

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATES

Ongoing
Ongoing

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Frontier MPO, WAPDD, ARDOT, ODOT, Arkansas State Data Center, local jurisdictions

PROJECT #44.23.00 | LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Task #20- Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs): The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Offices of Planning have jointly issued Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) for MPOs to identify work tasks associated with planning emphasis areas.

- **MAP-21 Implementation**—Begin transition to Performance Based Planning and Programming
- **Models of Regional Planning Cooperation**—Promote cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries and across State boundaries where appropriate to ensure a regional approach to transportation planning.
- **Ladders of Opportunity**—Promote access to essential services – as part of the transportation planning process and identify transportation connectivity gaps in access to essential services. Coordinate with Fort Smith Transit, provide COVID-19 transportation resources.

Task #21 - Assistance to Participating Jurisdictions: Work with jurisdictions to further define project priorities and explore funding options. Constant contact with all jurisdictions to identify potential projects.

Task #22- Major Transportation Investment Planning: Work with jurisdictions to further define project priorities and research or conduct corridor studies. Coordinate with other corridor efforts, such as the Greenwood Bypass study and other interchange studies.

Task #23- Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update: Assess and update long and short-term strategies that will lead to the creation of an intermodal metropolitan transportation system. Begin chapter development, population and socio-economic forecasts and analysis.

Project # 44.23.00 – Long Range Transportation Planning

Local Match Funds (20%)	\$ 5,104
Federal Funds (80%)	<u>\$20,413</u>
Total Funds	\$25,517

END PRODUCTS

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATES

Rogers Avenue Corridor Health & Transportation Framework	December 2020
Parsons Smart Cities Challenge Grand Prize Rogers Avenue <i>(Team of Frontier MPO, City of Fort Smith, & ArDOT)</i>	February 2020
National Park Service Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Regional Public Engagement Strategy	September 2021
National Recreation & Parks Association Walk 10 Access & Mobility Project – Crawford County	December 2020
CDC Walkability Action Institute <i>(Team of Frontier MPO's Cities, Counties, health, university, faith-based, local, and state health department and ArDOT officials)</i>	September 2020
Rural Transit Smart Hub Project (to link Fort Smith Transit to rural areas)	March 2021
MTP Update	March 2022

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Frontier MPO, ARDOT, ODOT, Fort Smith Transit, WAIA, WAPDD, Fort Smith Regional Airport, local jurisdictions, Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, State of Arkansas Department of Health, First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, City of Fort Smith Transit, and the Downtown Commercial Business District.

PROJECT #44.24.00 | SHORT-RANGE PLANNING

Task #30 - Development of Performance Measures – Work will begin to define and document performance and outcome-based measures as defined under the FAST Act. Collection and analysis of basic data, such as traffic counts and trends, and specific issues (i.e., intersection delays, crash data). Adoption of performance targets completed.

Task #31 – Crash Data: Staff will evaluate crash data within the metropolitan planning area. Coordinate with ArDOT and ODOT on the use of data to meet MAP-21 and FAST ACT performance goals, measures, and targets to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries by both motorized and active transportation users. Staff created infographics to share data results with member jurisdictions in May 2020.

Task #32 – Downtown Fort Smith Truck & Traffic Study: Staff will work with the City of Fort Smith and the 64.6 Organization to study truck traffic in downtown and create a plan to alleviate traffic. The study was completed in January 2020.

Task #33 - Transit: Support and provide technical assistance to Fort Smith Transit as they seek to improve transit services in the Fort Smith urbanized area. FRONTIER MPO will monitor and assist public and human service providers in the coordination of transit services. Conducted Customer Satisfaction Surveys and Report, as well as provided documentation of bus origins and destinations.

Task #34 - Planning Assistance: Staff will assist ARDOT, ODOT, counties and cities in utilizing transportation resources by providing information regarding transportation programs. Staff will also assist ARDOT, ODOT, cities and counties regarding transportation planning, updating Master Street Plans and transportation planning studies, including advocating for Interstate 40 and Interstate 49 improvements and completion of the bridge and remaining segments. Remain in close contact with city planners to ensure transportation plans are represented at local level.

Task #35 - Local Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans: Staff will assist Greenwood and Pocola with creating bicycle and pedestrian plans for each community. Staff completed the Greenwood plan; due to COVID-19, the Pocola plan's public participation schedule was modified.

Task #36 - Freight Plan: Staff began the framework for a freight study for the MPO area. Coordinated with WAIA and ARDOT regarding WAIA's Inland Intermodal Logistics Park effort. Also ensure consistency between ArDOT and ODOT State Freight Plans. Incorporate applicable recommendations of the adopted 2040 Metropolitan Plan.

Project #44.24.00 – Short-Range Planning

Local Match Funds (20%)	\$14,465
Federal Funds (80%)	<u>\$57,858</u>
Total Funds	\$72,323

END PRODUCTS

Van Buren and Alma pedestrian and bicycle plans
 Frontier MPO Freight Plan
 Performance Measures
 Downtown Fort Smith Truck & Traffic Study

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATES

Completed
 Ongoing
 Ongoing
 Completed

COOPERATING AGENCIES: Frontier MPO, Fort Smith Transit, ODOT, ARDOT, FHWA, WAPDD, and local jurisdictions.

PROJECT #44.25.00 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Task #40 - 2019-2022 TIP & 2020-2023 TIP: Staff will work with ArDOT, ODOT, and Fort Smith Transit and member jurisdictions to monitor the 2019-20202 TIP along with developing the 2020-2023 TIP. The TIP was approved at the June 14, 2018 Policy Board meeting.

Task #41 - ODOT TIP: The purpose of this task is to monitor and develop the ODOT 2019-2022TIP and the 2020-2023 TIP. FRONTIER MPO will coordinate and collaborate with the public, ODOT, and other community stakeholders.

Task #42 – ALOP: An Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) for which Federal highway and transit funds have been obligated will be published on the Frontier MPO website.

Project #44.25.00 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Local Match Funds (20%)	\$ 459
Federal Funds (80%)	<u>\$ 1,838</u>
Total Funds	\$ 2,297

END PRODUCTS**PROJECTED COMPLETION DATES**

Annual Listing of Obligated Projects	December 31, 2020
TIP Modifications	As Needed
ArDOT TIP	Ongoing
ODOT TIP	Ongoing

Cooperating Agencies: Frontier MPO, ODOT, ARDOT, WAPDD, Fort Smith Transit and local jurisdictions

PROJECT #44.27.00 OTHER ACTIVITIES FTA 5307 METROPOLITAN PLANNING (Contractual Project)

Activity Line Items:

Task #50 – Transit Performance Measures: Implementation of FAST Act performance-based planning and programming to implement the state and transit agencies performance targets after they have been developed.

Task #51 – Ridership Surveys: Staff will continue annual ridership satisfaction surveys and report. Completed March, 2020.

Project #44.27.00 – Other Activities FTA 5307 METROPOLITAN PLANNING (Contractual Project)

Local Match Funds (20%)	\$ 5,106
Federal Funds (80%)	<u>\$20,424</u>
Total Funds	\$25,530

END PRODUCTS

Performance-based Planning and Programming
 State and Local Transit Performance Targets
 Ridership Satisfaction Surveys

PROJECTED COMPLETION DATES

Ongoing
 March 2020 [Completed](#)

FRONTIER MPO PERFORMANCE & EXPENDITURE REPORT

FY 2020 YEAR END -- EXPENDITURE REPORT

FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION STUDY FY '2020 ACTUAL COSTS BY PROJECT

FUND SOURCE	PROJECTS-----						TOTALS
	#44.21.00 Program Support & Administration	#44.22.00 General Development & Comp. Planning	#44.23.00 Long-Range Transportation Planning	#44.24.00 Short Range Planning	#44.25.00 Transportation Improvement Program	#44.27.00 Other Activities Metro Planning Contractual Proj.	
ARDOT/FHWA-Section 5303	48,752	59,454	19,241	53,353	1,170	0	181,970
FRONTIER LOCAL	12,188	14,863	4,811	13,338	292	0	45,492
City of Fort Smith-Sec.5307	0	0	0	0	0	20,424	20,424
FRONTIER LOCAL	0	0	0	0	0	5,106	5,106
ODOT/FHWA-Section 5303	9,087	5,076	1,172	4,505	668	0	20,508
FRONTIER LOCAL	2,272	1,268	293	1,127	167	0	5,127

FRONTIER MPO DATA
Report Date: 08/25/2020

Appendix A

Title II | Assurances

The Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) assures that no qualified person with a disability shall, solely by reasons of their disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by the Frontier MPO.

Specifically, the following discriminatory actions are prohibited:

- 1) In providing any aid, benefit, or service, Frontier MPO will not directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, on the basis of disability:
 - a. Deny a qualified person with a disability the opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit or service.
 - b. Afford a qualified person with a disability an opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit, or service that is not substantially equal to that afforded persons who do not have a disability.
 - c. Provide a qualified person with a disability and aid, benefit or service that is not as effective in affording equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same level of achievement as persons without disabilities.
 - d. Provide different or separate aid, benefits, or services to persons with disabilities or to any class of persons with disabilities unless such action is necessary to provide the aids, benefits or services that are as effective as those provided to persons without disabilities.
 - e. Aid or perpetuate discrimination against a qualified person with a disability by providing financial or other assistance to an agency, organization, or person that discriminates on the basis of disability.
 - f. Deny a qualified person with a disability the opportunity to participate in conferences, planning or advising opportunities.
 - g. Otherwise limit a qualified person with a disability in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage or opportunity enjoyed by others receiving an aid, benefit, or service.
- 2) For purposes of these assurances, aids, benefits, and services, to be equally effective, are not required to produce the identical result or level of achievement for disabled and nondisabled persons, but must afford persons with disabilities equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same level of achievement, in the most integrated setting that is reasonably achievable.
- 3) Even if separate or different aids, benefits or services are available to persons with a disability, the Frontier MPO will not deny a qualified person with a disability the opportunity to participate in the programs or activities that are not separate or different.

- 4) Or methods of administration:
 - a. That have the effect of subjecting qualified persons with a disability to discrimination on the basis of disability,
 - b. That have the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially reducing the likelihood that persons with disabilities can benefit from the objectives of the program or activity, or
 - c. That yield or perpetuate discrimination against another recipient of federal funds if both recipients are subject to common administrative control or are agencies of the same state, multiple states, or units of local governments.
- 5) In determining the site or location of a facility, Frontier MPO will not make selections:
 - a. That have the effect of excluding persons with disabilities from, denying them the benefits of, or otherwise subjecting them to discrimination under any program or activity, or
 - b. That has the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of the program or activity with respect to persons with disabilities.
- 6) As used in these assurances, the aid, benefit or service provided under a program or activity includes any aid, benefit or service provided in or through a facility that has been constructed, expanded, altered, leased or rented, or otherwise acquired, in whole or in part, with Federal financial assistance.

Future Effect of Assurances

Recipients of Federal financial assistance, and transferees of property obtained by a recipient with the participation of Federal financial assistance, are bound by the above assurances under the following circumstances:

- 1) When Federal financial assistance is provided in the form of a conveyance of real property or an interest in real property from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the instrument of conveyance shall include a covenant running with the land binding the recipient and subsequent transferees to comply with the requirements for so long as the property is used for the purpose of which the Federal financial assistance was provided or for a similar purpose.
- 2) When Federal financial assistance is used to purchase or improve real property, and require any subsequent transferee of the property, who is using the property for the purpose for which Federal financial assistance was provided, to agree in writing to comply with the requirements. The obligations of the recipient and transferees shall continue in effect for as long as the property is used for the purpose for which Federal financial assistance was provided or for a similar purpose.
- 3) When Federal financial assistance is provided in the form of, or is used to obtain, personal property, these assurances shall obligate the recipient to comply with the requirements for the period it retains ownership or possession of the property or the property is used by the transferee for purposes directly related to the operations of the recipient.

- 4) When Federal financial assistance is used for purposes other than to obtain property, these assurances shall obligate the recipient to comply with the requirements for the period during which the Federal financial assistance is extended to the program or activity.

Notice

The Frontier MPO will take appropriate initial and continuing steps to notify participants, beneficiaries, applicants and employees, including those with impaired vision or hearing, and unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Frontier MPO that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability using the notice in Appendix A.

Methods of initial and continuing notification may include the posting of notices, publication in newspaper and magazines, placement of notices in agency publications and distribution of memoranda or other written communications.

Effect of State or Local Law

The obligation to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is not obviated or affected by any state or local law.



Sasha Grist
Executive Director, Frontier MPO

August 26, 2020
Date

Appendix B

Title VI | Assurances

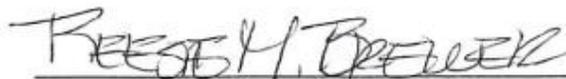
The Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization (hereinafter referred to as the Recipient) HEREBY AGREES THAT, as a condition to receiving any federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 42 U.S.C. 2000d-4 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation-Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations), and other pertinent directives to the end that, in accordance with the Act, regulations, and other pertinent directives, no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, national origin, disability/handicap, or income status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highway Administration; and HEREBY GIVES ASSURANCE THAT it will promptly take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement. This assurance is required by Subsection 21.7(a) (1) of the Regulations, a copy of which is attached.

More specifically and without limiting the above general assurance, the Recipient hereby gives the following specific assurances with respect to its Federal-aid Highway Program:

1. That the Recipient agrees that each “program” and each “facility,” as defined in Subsections 21.23(e) and 21.23(b) of the Regulations, will be (with regard to a “program”) conducted or will be (with regard to a “facility”) operated in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Regulations.
2. That the Recipient shall insert the following notification in all solicitations for bids for work or materials subject to the regulations made in connection with the Federal-aid Highway Program and, in adapted form, in all proposals for negotiated agreements: The Frontier Metropolitan Planning Organization, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4, and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation, issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, national origin, disability/handicap, or income status in consideration for an award.
3. That the Recipient shall insert the clauses of Appendix A of this assurance in every contract subject to the Act and the Regulations.
4. That the clauses of Appendix B of this assurance shall be included, as a covenant running with the land, in any deed from the United States effecting a transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or interest therein.

5. That where the Recipient receives federal financial assistance to construct a facility or part of a facility, the assurance shall extend to the entire facility and facilities operated in connection therewith.
6. That where the Recipient receives federal financial assistance in the form, or for the acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, the assurance shall extend to rights to space on, over, or under such property.
7. That the Recipient shall include the appropriate clauses set forth in Appendix C of this assurance, as a covenant running with the land, in any future deeds, leases, permits, licenses, and similar agreements entered into by the Recipient with other parties (a) for the subsequent transfer of real property acquired or improved under the Federal-aid Highway Program; and (b) for the construction or use of, or access to space on, over, or under, real property acquired or improved under the Federal-aid Highway Program.
8. That this assurance obligates the Recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of, personal property, or real property or interest therein, or structures or improvements thereon; in which case the assurance obligates the Recipient or any transferee for the longer of the following periods: (a) the period during which the property used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits; of (b) the period during which the Recipient retains ownership or possession of the property.
9. The Recipient shall provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation, or the official to whom he or she delegates specific authority, to give reasonable guarantee that it, other recipients, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest; and other participants of federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Act, the Regulations, and this assurance.
10. The Recipient agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Act, the Regulations, and this assurance.

THIS ASSURANCE is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts, or other federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Recipient by the Department of Transportation under the federal-aid Highway Program and is binding on it, other recipients, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants in the federal-aid Highway Program. The person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Recipient.



Signature of Authorized Official
Frontier MPO Executive Director

August 26, 2020

Date